

~~K-524~~
~~K-505~~

Merritt Farm, Ivingo
Near Kennedyville
c. 1800

Ivingo is the name given to a 210 acre parcel taken from Kent Manor in 1708.¹ One half of Ivingo was sold in 1769 to William Merritt by James Burgan, heir of the original patentee. The other half came into Merritt's possession by his first wife, who was a Burgan.²

Merritt was one of several revolutionary heroes to be buried at Shrewsbury Church to the north. He was Sheriff of Kent County in 1779 and was also a vestryman and church warden of Shrewsbury Parish. After his death at Ivingo in 1793, his second wife, Martha Vansant was named administrator of his estate. The estate, however, was not settled until after her death in 1808. Her son, Benjamin Merritt, completed the administration.³

The property remained in the family for another one hundred years before being sold in 1908 to Robert R. Hill, in whose family it remained until 1951.⁴ The old house was tenanted during their ownership, as Mr. Hill built the house which stands across the road.

Only the HABS photograph of the old house remains. But from the memories of two residents of Kent County, the plan was apparently somewhat unconventional—a hall-parlor with stair in the center of the building. The wing had a stair in each of its rooms. From the descriptions of the interior, as well as the photograph, the house was probably built close to the time of William Merritt's death in the late 1790's. It was demolished in

the mid-1950's.

1. Hall of Records, Index to Patents.
2. Mary Elizabeth Appleby Abel, "Ensign William Merritt," (D. A. R.), 1992.
3. Ibid.
4. Land Records, Lib. JTD 18, fol. 165.

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF
HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Survey No. ~~K-565~~ K-524

Magi No.

DOE yes no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic "Ivingo"

and/or common "Merritt Farm"

2. Location

street & number Rt 213 and Shrewsbury Church Lane not for publication

city, town Kennedyville X vicinity of congressional district 1st

state Maryland county Kent

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<u> </u> district	<u> </u> public	<u> </u> occupied	<u> X </u> agriculture
<u> </u> building(s)	<u> X </u> private	<u> X </u> unoccupied	<u> </u> commercial
<u> </u> structure	<u> </u> both	<u> </u> work in progress	<u> </u> educational
<u> X </u> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<u> </u> entertainment
<u> </u> object	<u> </u> in process	<u> </u> yes: restricted	<u> </u> government
	<u> </u> being considered	<u> </u> yes: unrestricted	<u> </u> industrial
	<u> X </u> not applicable	<u> X </u> no	<u> </u> military
			<u> </u> museum
			<u> </u> park
			<u> </u> private residence
			<u> </u> religious
			<u> </u> scientific
			<u> </u> transportation
			<u> </u> other:

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Messer Farms Limited Partnership

street & number 401 McGinnis Road telephone no.:

city, town Chestertown state and zip code MD

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Kent County Courthouse liber EHP 133

street & number Cross Street folio 206

city, town Chestertown state MD

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title Historic American Building Survey

date unknown X federal state county local

pository for survey records Library of Congress

city, town Washington state DC

7. Description

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Condition

☐ excellent
☐ good
☐ fair

☐ deteriorated
☐ ruins
☒ unexposed

Check one

☐ unaltered
☒ altered

Check one

☒ original site
☐ moved date of move _____

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The site of the Merritt Farm house is on the north side of U.S. Rt. 213, slightly east of Shrewsbury Church Lane. It is currently being tilled, so if anything survives from the house pictured by HABS, it would be below the plow line or scattered throughout the area.

Judging from the single photo of the house, it was either late 18th or early 19th Century in date. Its 6/9 sash and narrow window frames are obvious 19th Century features, as are the very plain architrave and the cornice returns on the dormers. Another feature that is found in a few dwellings of early 19th Century Kent County is the fact that both sections of the building are on the same level, with lower ceiling in the service wing.

According to Mrs. Robert Cunningham of Kennedyville, where the weatherboard had fallen off, the space between the studs was visible and was full of nogging made up of brick, stones and mud.

In a telephone interview with Mrs. Raymond Hill of Kennedyville, she said that the house was tenanted when she and her husband lived on the farm. They lived in the house across the road which had been built by her father-in-law. She mentioned that there was a stair between the two rooms of the main section and the two rooms in the service wing each had a corner stair to a room above. The two main rooms had mantels which were very tall. The house was torn down in 1954 or 55.

One open face latch inside was removed and installed at Clarke's Convenience prior to its demolition.

8. Significance

Survey No. ~~K-565~~ K-524

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates c.1800 **Builder/Architect** unknown

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☐ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

"Ivingo" is the name given a 210 acre parcel taken from "Kent Manor" in 1708. The Manor had been surveyed in 1675 for Lord Baltimore and included 8,000 acres "beginning at the head of Morgans Creek".

One half of Ivingo was sold in 1769 to William Merritt by James Burgan, an heir of the original patentee. The other half may have come via his first wife, whose maiden name was also Burgan (spelled alternately Bergrin). Merritt also purchased other land in the same vicinity as well as near Massey.

"William Merritt (1726–1793) served as an Ensign in the Revolutionary War in the Kent County Maryland Militia" (9). He is mentioned in Revolutionary period letters. He served as Sheriff of Kent County in 1779 and was a vestryman and church warden of Lewesbury Parish. He married (second) Martha, the daughter of Benjamin Vansant in 1776. He died at Ivingo, his home plantation in 1793. His widow administered his estate, even after marrying Joseph Newnam, but after her death in 1808 it was finalized by their son Benjamin.

In 1877, the farm house was listed as the residence of Samuel A. Merritt.

"Ivingo" remained in the Merritt family between 1769 and 1908. By the last date, it had been reduced to 176 acres and in a previous deed, 1868, to S.A. Merritt, it is stated that it was part of "William Merritts whole farm". Between 1908 and 1951 it was owned and farmed by the Robert R. Hill family who lived across the main road. Since 1951 there have been only two owners, but the house in which the Hills lived was sold separately with a small acreage.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. K-565- K-524

Kent County Land Records.

Abel, Mary E. Appleby - Article on William Merritt for Old Kent Chapter D.A.R. (1992).

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____

Quadrangle scale _____

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	Zone	Easting		Northing			

B	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	Zone	Easting		Northing			

C	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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F	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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G	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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H	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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Verbal boundary description and justification

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title Michael Bourne

organization Historical Society of Kent County, Inc. date April, 1995

street & number P.O. Box 663 telephone 410-778-3499

city or town Chestertown state MD

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
Shaw House
21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 269-2438

REFERENCES.

ELL & SON, Phy-
cist and Apothecary.
Fancy Articles, &c.
GTO...
Cape...
Shoes...
Country...
Toilet Soaps, and
fully compounded,
in Dry Goods, Gro-
ceries and all Articles

nd Undertaker. All
and First Class Car-
of Repairing done.
All persons need-
ell to give me a call.
l kinds of Black-
dispatch. Horse-

ETT, Blacksmith-
ches. Horse-shoes.
Dry Goods, Gro-
ceries, Fancy Ar-
and all Articles
Highest Price paid

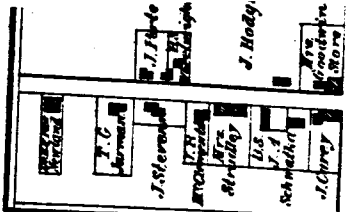
KENNEDYVILLE BUSINESS REFER- ENCES.

WILLIAM S. CULP, Carpenter and Builder, and
Manufacturer of Peach-baskets. Orders solicited.
C. E. J. SPARKS, Proprietor of Cash Store. Is
now offering to the public a full line of Dry Goods,
Notions, Hats, Caps, Boots, Shoes, and other Ar-
ticles usually kept in a country store. Ready-made
Clothing always on hand, or ordered at short notice.
My Goods were bought for cash, and can offer bet-
ter bargains than can be obtained elsewhere. I in-
tend to sell for cash or country Produce. Give me
a call before going elsewhere.
M. ANDERSON, Wheelwright. All kinds of Re-
pairing done, such as Carts, Wagons and Carriages,
and all Farming Implements manufactured and Re-
paired. All kinds of Wood Work done to order.
Give me a call. Location, Locust Grove.
M. F. J. SPARKS, Proprietor of Sparks' Mills. Best
Grades of Family Flour manufactured and kept on
hand for sale at all times, also Corn Meal and Buck-
wheat Flour. Custom work solicited. Highest cash
price paid for Wheat at all times, near Locust Grove.

SAMUEL S. HOPKINS, Proprietor of Urieville
Flouring Mill. Best Grades of Fam-
factured and kept on hand for sale.
Custom Work done at all times.
solicited to give me a call. $\frac{3}{4}$ mile
dyville.
J. F. POTS, Blacksmith at Urieville.
Blacksmithing done with neatness on
persons wanting anything in my li
give me a call. $\frac{1}{2}$ miles from Kenn
A. STRONG, Wheelwright at Urievill
of Wheelwrighting done with nea
patch. Persons wanting anything is
do well to give me a call. Shop $\frac{3}{4}$ miles from
Kennedyville.
J. L. WILMER, Proprietor of Goose Hill Mill. 4
miles from Chestertown. The best Grades of Fa-
mily Flour manufactured and kept on hands for
sale at all times. Custom Work done at all times.
M. C. PENNINGTON, Proprietor of Kennedyville
Hotel. First-class accommodations for all.
SASSAFRAS P. O. BUSINESS REFER-
ENCES.

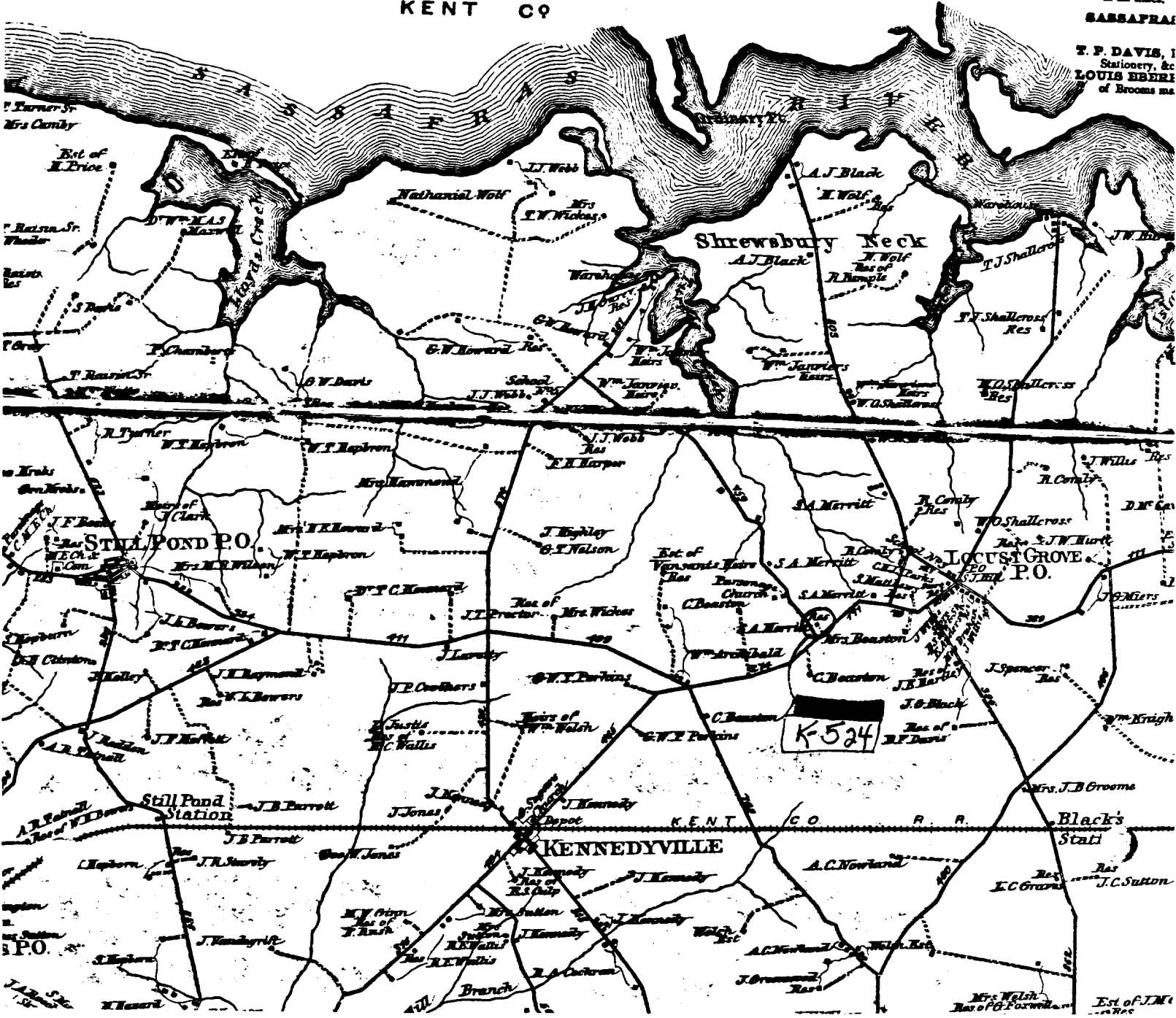
T. F. DAVIS, Dealer in Drugs, Medicines, Books,
Stationery, &c.
LOUIS EBERHARD, Broom-maker. All kinds
of Brooms manufactured to order.

Lake, Griffing, Stevenson
Atlas of Kent Co., 1877
Second District Map

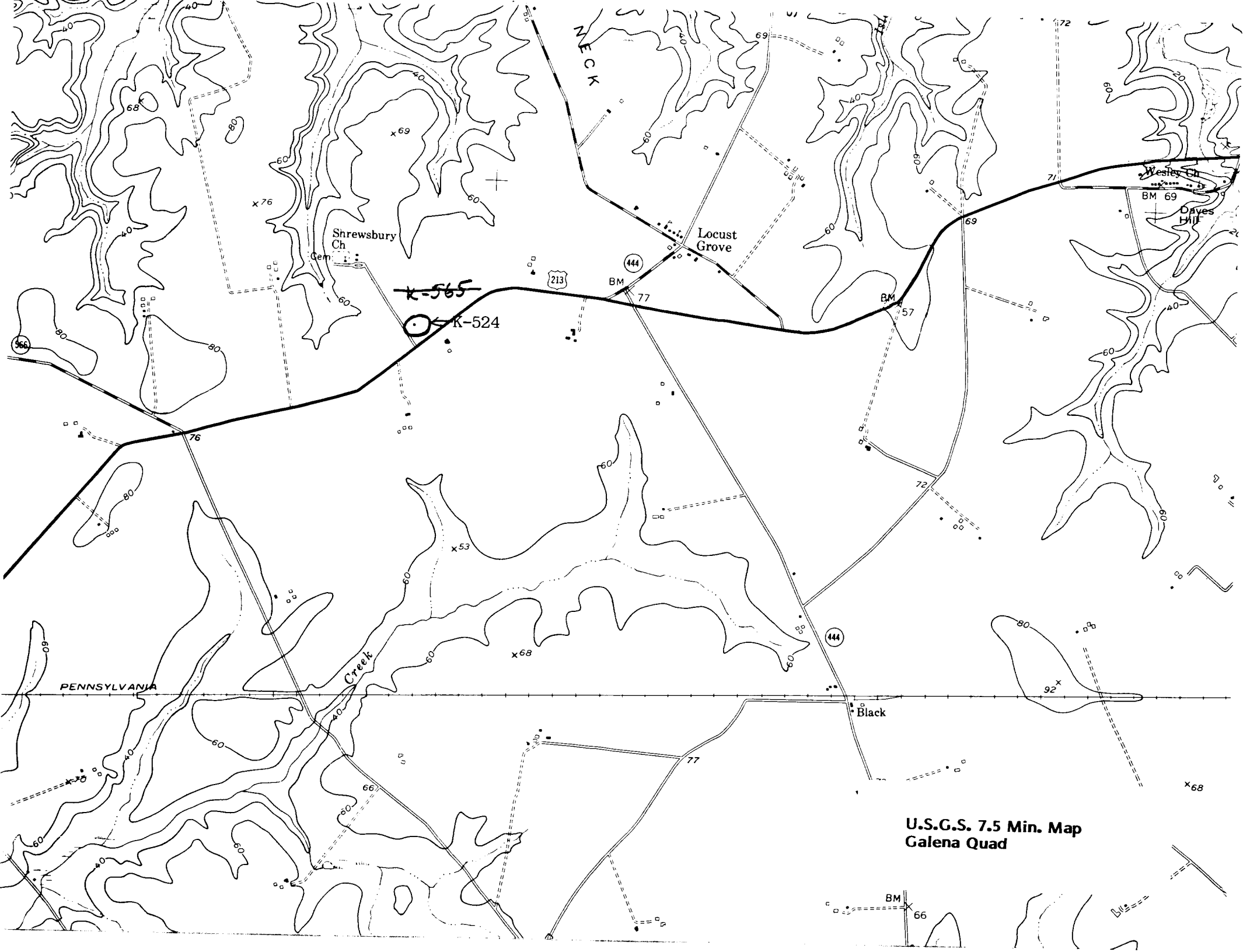


SECOND DISTRICT KENNEDYVILLE

KENT CO



CHESTER
MARY E. W.,
Caps, Boots,
kinds, Toilet
JOSHUA DA
in all its Brar
JAMES CAR
Good Stabling
at all times.
SASSAFRA
T. F. DAVIS, I
Stationery, &c.
LOUIS EBERH
of Brooms ma



PENNSYLVANIA

Creek

Shrewsbury Ch.

Locust Grove

Wesley Ch.

Daves Hill

K-565

K-524

U.S.G.S. 7.5 Min. Map
Galena Quad



Merritt House K-524

Ivingo
near Kennedyville

HABS